

ELLEN OSBORN'S FASHION LETTER.

The Rage for Gold Does Not Abate. It Has Become a Mania.

Special Correspondence of Intelligencer.

NEW YORK, Oct. 25.—When in doubt, play gold braid. The gold fever does not abate. It has become a craze, a mania. Everything is done.

Tailors, milliners and modistes have been seized with the frenzy. One is tempted almost to think them descendants of Midas. Whatever they touch turns to gold.

Gold galon, gold cord, gold braid and gold buttons are used in even greater profusion than at the beginning of the season. Gold thread is wrought into the newest laces. Medallions of gold cloth are set into lace and embroidery. The newest spunged gown is of gold paillettes glittering on black or cream net, as you fancy.

Gold trimming has become so universal that one actually misses, when it is not present, the defining line of gold.

Little vests of gold cloth shine on the season's sleekskin and Persian lamb coats. Medallions of gold cloth and ermine adorn the fronts of the three-quarter length garments.

Under each and every one of the new black net dresses is an under-dress of white point d'esprit striped up and down with gold braid or set with rows of flat bows of gold ribbon.

Lace applique on gold gauze is used for collars and vests on gowns of all degrees of dressiness and thickness of material.

Gold bullion embroidery is almost a sine qua non of the fancy waist in its varying degrees of simplicity and elaboration.

It might almost be said that some combination of black and gold in the trimming is an indispensable feature of the winter gown.

Skirts of gold mauve have come into use for dinner and evening dress, worn as a rule, over odd little bodies of pompadour silk. Other evening dresses are made of crepe de chine, mousseline de sole and cream lace embroidered with gold butterflies done in gold thread and narrow gold braids.

It is a matter of course—that handsome gold ornaments never more sought, among those most in use being ferret ornaments or tabs for cravats and hat bows.

A most modest use of gold is exemplified in a new tailor dress of deep blue ladies' cloth. The skirt, which is wholly untrimmed, is of the novel shape which has a box plait directly in front, gradually widening toward the feet, where the skirt is very full.

The waist has vest and undersleeves of tucked white satin and cream guipure, and is decorated with gold buttons and fine gilt braid.

A visiting dress which is bright with gold without being barbaric, is of soft gray velveteen, the skirt finished with two flounces and with a wide tablier of guipure. Guipure lace also finishes the revers and the under part of the skirt, which is fastened across over a row of

of gold-colored mousseline de sole, and the other of rose-colored silk muslin, relieved by a plastron of Irish lace with a gold mesh.

Along with the profusion of gilt decorations goes a decided tendency toward the picturesque in gowning. At any of the big libraries in New York you may see designers poring over volumes of old prints, from which they take bodily the greater number of their models.

Styles swing more and more to the Louis XVI. and Directoire bores, with its deep revers flaring like great outspread wings and its broad belt, and the Empire bolero, with its pretty little high belt or tiny silk girdle.

The redingotes have come back again—the Directoire wrap, and the most graceful of all garments, with its flowing lines and suggestions of last-century elegance.

The simplest form of redingote created takes shape in bishop's purple cloth, with a great rolled collar of silver fox. The fullness at the back is held in by a strap at the waist, and in front the right side laps across in Russian fashion and fastens below the waist line on the left.

More complex redingotes are made with a bodice upon which the skirt portion is set in slight gathers. A very quaint and effective model ordered by Mrs. Perry Belmont is of shot brown taffeta, a material that in itself carries the mind back a full century. The fronts of the slightly gathered skirt are uncinched from the waist and float back

in a billow of gold braid and gold buttons are used in even greater profusion than at the beginning of the season. Gold thread is wrought into the newest laces. Medallions of gold cloth are set into lace and embroidery. The newest spunged gown is of gold paillettes glittering on black or cream net, as you fancy.

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that it will be worn. The Directoire mode is essentially one of silhouettes, and it is by the Directoire that we are now governed.

Odd effects are persistently sought. One side of a dress may closely define the figure and the other fall loose in the mode of the Empire. A dinner dress planned on these lines is of white silk muslin with a design of blurred carnations. Across the low corsage runs an intricate diamond application of pale pink chiffon and thread lace, from which the drapery hangs on one side free, and on the other is fitted close and drawn up through a large turquoise buckle.

A second model has a kind of flat bolero on one side, the material on the other falling full from the shoulder seams. This dress is of a delicate green tulle, encrusted with black lace motifs relieved by a touch of the ubiquitous gold galon.

The cozy round box snuggling becomingly up to the ears has undergone a sad change. The neck wrap of the immediate future lies flat on the shoulders, it has lost all of its varying lengths, reaching in some cases to the waist only, in others to the knees, or even to the ground.

From the wearing of heads, tails and claws, we have come to tolerate whole animals. Yesterday I saw a woman whose big velvet hat had a poor little gray thing sprawled on the brim; I suspected a dead kitten, but it was probably a chinchilla.

ELLEN OSBORN.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

Rare Australian Woods—Mining Limits—Earthworm Migration. Science of Caves—Verity of Liquid Crystals—Air Power for Paris. Oils for Machinery—One of the Dying Races—Drying by Ozone—Alcohol Illumination.

The timber preserves of the Queensland government now embrace 135,222 acres, and are likely to be greatly extended. While the chief foreign demand

Lubricants should be chosen with regard to the effect upon the metal. From a German summary of experiments, it appears that iron is most acted upon by talow oil, least by seal oil, and not at all by rape seed oil. Tin suffers most from whale oil, least attacked by olive oil, and is not attacked at all by rapeseed oil. Lead oil has nearly as great an effect as sperm oil. Zinc is most attacked by sperm oil, least by lard oil, and seems to resist completely mineral lubricating oil. Upon copper, talow and sperm oil have nearly equal effect. Mineral lubricating oil attacks lead the most, being without effect upon tin and copper.

The Ainu race, which once occupied the entire island of Yezo, is estimated to have become reduced to about 15,000 individuals. Their complete absorption by the Japanese is now a matter of but a few years. These curious people are the hairiest in the world, they sometimes live in caves and their skeletons show many of the peculiarities of the prehistoric cave-dwellers of Europe. They are extremely filthy, and are addicted to drunkenness.

A valuable property of ozone is utilized by Carl Hoch by ozonizing purified air in a special clay apparatus, and conducting the product by a pipe through a lacquering oven. Lacquers become quickly dry and hard at 30 degrees to 35 degrees C. that usually require 300 degrees. This process is especially suitable for articles of soldered metal, and also for leather, wood and rubber.

Alcohol from potatoes, unlike the ordinary product, burns without leaving a sticky deposit, and is being used for lighting in France and Germany. The very hot flame gives very satisfactory incandescence to the Welsbach mantle. The lamps, resembling those used for oil burn twenty-four hours, and yield a seventy-candle power light, with a consumption of a fifth of a pint.

The finger nails are broadened by use. A study by P. A. Minnick has shown that the nails of the right hand are usually from 1.50 to 1.12 of an inch wider than those of the left hand, the reverse being true in left-handed persons, while in the ambidextrous there is no difference.

INTERNATIONAL S. S. LESSON

October 28, 1900. Luke xv, 11-24.

The Prodigal Son.

In the remarkable "trio of parables," "The Lost Coin," "The Lost Sheep," and "The Prodigal Son," there is a striking progression. It is from the inanimate to the animate—from the animate to the human. A sow in a noble and wealthy family, chafing under parental restraint, or having exhausted local means of dissipation, and sighing for fresh fields of voluptuous conquest, inconsiderately requests an ante-mortem division of the estate. The indulgent father makes it. Perhaps he has no recourse; parental authority is at an end. The son's heart is callous to the appeal of love; sin has indurated him. The guileless youth, the father's pride and joy, has grown the craft, defiant rebel. The amenities of home are inoffensive. In the shortest time possible the infatuated youth tucked the sparkling gems and golden bars, his patrimony in portable form, easily convertible into coin of any country, in the pockets of a money-belt, and, trapping it about his person, he went abroad—perhaps without even a ceremonial farewell.

He wanted his substance. He tossed it in the air (as per derivative, "as the farmer does his wheat" when he will separate it from the chaff. He lived dissolutely. He was insatiable (as per derivative, while his infatuation lasted. The coincidence of the devoted and really patrimony and the universal and extreme famine puts a pathetic touch to the sorry plight of the dissolute spendthrift. He was left behind (as per derivative) in the race. He never, in spite of his infatuated effort and extravagance, so much as reached the glittering goal of his wanton ambition. The gay reveling party that kept him company while his means held out, swept past him thickly and disdainfully when his once plethoric purse was at last empty. He awoke as from a dream—alone! penniless!

With the pertinacity of despair he glued (literally) himself to a foreign land-owner, whom in his prosperity he would have dubbed a "gentle dog," with whom he would have had no intercourse, much less receive a favor from him. In his despair he clings to the foreigner so tenaciously that he cannot be shaken off. A superlatively disgusting and degrading task is given him—offensive to all the senses, repugnant to all the ideas of ceremonial cleanliness instilled in his mind from boyhood.

So sharp were the pangs of hunger that he kept coveting the swine that feed—the locust pods he throw down before them. What humiliation, sorrow, despair are compressed in the half-dozen words—"No man gave unto him!"

At last the hypnotic spell of sin is broken. Self-consciousness, self-control are regained. Memory paints the

ancestral home. The dawn blessing brightens. What abundance, comfort, care, there extends to the most abject menial! The veriest scullion has such a superabundance that he can pose as a benefactor before the tramp.

"I will!" What a battle royal has proceeded and made possible those tall-made words! Fear, shame, pride, have been met and conquered. "I have sinned" is the correlate of "I will arise." Confession absolute and frank, without apology or plea in abatement, shall be made. The penalty and consequences of apostasy, dishonor, servitude instead of sonship, shall be assumed without a syllable of complaint.

It is done. But how different the sequel from that which the prodigal anticipated! He is met long before he can reach the door where he expected to make his confession and prefer his modest request. The father's compassion, how admirable! Kiss of reconciliation, how sweet! The first role, richly dyed and embroidered, is cast about the bare and sunburnt shoulders. The signet of rank is placed upon the wan finger. Bare feet, mark of servitude, are shod with the sandals of a free man. Now follows the joyous banquet.

The murmuring Pharisees can not but see themselves portrayed in the elder son, with his ill-formed, ill-natured protest. The true Messiah had come to heal the sick, raise the dead, find the lost. Will the hale, the unstrayed, those who do not need his kindly offices, begrudge them to their brothers, whose plight is so pitiable and desperate? The climax is reached, the plea unanswerable.

The Study Lamp. The prodigal, with streaming eyes, From folly just awake, Reviews his wanderings with surprise; "With deep repentance I'll return, And seek my father's face; Unworthy to be called a son, I'll ask a